

Our Common Future

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Our Common Future, also known as the **Brundtland Report**, from the [United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development](#) (WCED) was published in 1987.

Its targets were multilateralism and interdependence of nations in the search for a [sustainable development](#) path. The report sought to recapture the spirit of the [United Nations Conference on the Human Environment](#) - the Stockholm Conference - which had introduced [environmental](#) concerns to the formal political development sphere. *Our Common Future* placed environmental issues firmly on the political agenda; it aimed to discuss the environment and [development](#) as one single issue.

The publication of *Our Common Future* and the work of the *World Commission on Environment and Development* laid the groundwork for the convening of the 1992 [Earth Summit](#) and the adoption of [Agenda 21](#), the [Rio Declaration](#) and to the establishment of the [Commission on Sustainable Development](#).

An oft-quoted definition of sustainable development is defined in the report as:

"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

In addition, key contributions of *Our Common Future* to the concept of sustainable development include the recognition that the many crises facing the planet are *interlocking crises* that are elements of a single crisis of the whole ^[1] and of the vital need for the active participation of all sectors of society in consultation and decisions relating to sustainable development.

Our Common Future is also known as the Brundtland Report in recognition of former [Norwegian](#) Prime Minister [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#)'s role as Chair of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

[[edit](#)] Publication



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[*Brundtland Report*](#)

- *Our Common Future* (1987), Oxford: [Oxford University Press](#). [ISBN 0-19-282080-X](#)